

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 AID-05

PC-05 NEA-09 ERDA-07 CEA-01 CIEP-02 COME-00 EB-07

FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INT-05 L-02 OMB-01 SAM-01 OES-05

STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-01 /119 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9490
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 0852

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VZ, CS

SUBJECT: COSTA RICAN NEWSMAN'S INTERVIEW WITH
CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ

1. ON FEBRUARY 26, "LA NACION" PUBLISHED A DETAILED INTERVIEW WITH THE VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT, IN WHICH PRESIDENT PEREZ REPORTEDLY STATED THAT HIS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PLAN FOR CENTRAL AMERICA WAS ONE OF THE MOST GRATIFYING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HIS FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE. THE INTERVIEW, WHICH COVERED MANY TOPICS UNRELATED TO CENTRAL AMERICA, WAS CARRIED OUT BY "LA NACION" REPORTER JULIO SUNOL, WHO WAS A FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE OF PEREZ' DURING HIS YEARS IN COSTA RICA AND WHO WILL REPORTEDLY ACCOMPANY PEREZ TO THE OPEC MEETING IN ALGERIA.

2. PEREZ ALSO REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED VENEZUELA'S ROLE IN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS, U.S. -LATIN RELATIONS, CUBA, AND THE UPCOMING OPEC MEETING. PEREZ DENIED THAT VENEZUELA IS TRYING TO ASSUME
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LEADERSHIP IN LATIN AMERICA OR THAT VENEZUELA IS

IN COMPETITION WITH OTHER LATIN POWERS FOR SUCH LEADERSHIP. RATHER, VENEZUELA IS SEEKING TO ENCOURAGE LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY, AND ITS ECONOMIC PREEMINENCE IN THE REGION CALLS FOR AN ACTIVE ROLE DETERMINING REGIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY. WITH REGARD TO RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., PEREZ CRITICIZED U.S. "ERRORS" IN US/LA RELATIONS, TOWARD LATIN AMERICA, AND LACK OF UNDERSTANDING. HE SPOKE OF A "DRAMATIC CRISIS" BUT DISCOUNTED THE POSSIBILITY OF U.S. IKUIS TARY ACTION AGAINST ANY LATIN COUNTRY. HE CALLED FOR A LATIN SOLIDARITY "NOT TO CONFGQNONT (U.S. / L.A.) KRCES, BUT IN ORDER TO DIALOGUE AND UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER WITHOUT UNILATERAL AND BILATERAL POSITIONS WEAKENING THE COMMON STRENGTH."

3. PEREZ CHARACTERIZED THE OAS BLOCKADE OF CUBA AS AN "UNDESIREABLE FICTION," ESPECIALLY SINCE "U.S. MULTINATIONAL COUNTRIES ARE TRADING WITH CUBA."

4. FINALLY, PEREZ SPOKE OF THE HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF THE OPEC CHIEFS-OF-STATE MEETING IN ALGERIA. HE REPORTEDLY CLAIMED THAT THE AGENDA GOES "FAR BEYOND THE QUESTION OF PETROLEUM."
"THE DECLARATION OF ALGIERS WILL GIVE FORM TO THE DECISION OF THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES TO USE PETROLEUM NOT AS AN ARM OF CONFRONTATION BUT AS THE MAJOR INSTRUMENT IN THE STRUGGLE TO OBTAIN A SATISFACTORY BALANCE BETWEEN THE PRICES OF PRIME MATERIALS, BASIC PRODUCTS, AND MANUFACTURED AND CAPITAL GOODS."

5. CLIPPINGS WILL BE FORWARDED TO CARACAS.
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